

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07950 220905Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 220838Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8279

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FROM AMBASSADOR FOR NEA/IRN NAAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR GREENBERG

REF: STATE 207581

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HANK GREENBERG IN RESPONSE TO HIS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR HANK: THIS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MESSAGE. SHABANI CAME TO SEE ME MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19 AND TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HEARD A RUMOR TO THE EFFECT THAT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT VENTURE WOULD BE REDUCED BY CABINET TO 35 PERCENT. HE ASKED IF I COULD TALK TO MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE ANSARY. I TOLD HIM THAT I FOUND THIS MOST DIFFICULT SINCE THE ISSUE WAS NOT A QUESTION OF ARRANGING THE BUSINESS ASPECTS OF A JOINT VENTURE. NEVERTHELESS, I DECIDED TO INTERCEDE WITH ANSARY AND SPOKE TOGETHER WITH HIM AND MAHDAVI, THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. ANSARY TOLD ME, AND MAHDAVI SUPPORTED HIM, THAT, ALTHOUGH ANSARY'S COMMITTEE HAD FAVORABLY RECOMMENDED THE 45 PERCENT PARTICIPATION, THE CABINET AS A WHOLE DID NOT ACCEPT IT AND WANTED THE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION REDUCED TO 35 PERCENT. I RESPONDED THAT THE LAW PERMITS 49 PERCENT. THEIR REPLY WAS THAT THE CABINET IS EMPOWERED IN THE LAW TO AMEND THAT PROVISION. ANSARY'S FINAL WORD TO ME WAS "WHEN WE OFFER THE 35 PERCENT, AIG HAD BETTER GRAB IT AND RUN. THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE STANDING RIGHT BEHIND THE DOOR." IN SHORT, I HAVE TAKEN THIS AS FAR AS I FEEL I CAN. REALIZE THAT WE HAVE PREDICAMENT HERE, I AM NOT IN GOOD POSITION TO JUDGE HOW MUCH SWAT SHABANI AND LEFEVRE

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HAVE, BUT AS NEARLY AS I CAN DETERMINE, A 45 PERCENT PARTICIPATION

GOES DOWN THE DRAIN UNLESS YOU ARE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO REIN-
STATE THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. REGRET THAT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN THIS
TURN, BUT CERTAINLY I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PROBLEM UNTIL SHABANI
VISITED ME ON THURSDAY. WARM REGARDS, DICK. END OF TEXT.
HELMS

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